

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00959 141219Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----141932Z 069593 /42

R 141140Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6279  
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0959

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, AG, US  
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S ALGIERS VISIT

1. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S APRIL 10-12 VISIT TO ALGIERS AND MEETINGS WITH TOP ALGERIAN OFFICIALS SUCCESSFULLY FULFILLED ALGERIANS HOPES AND US AIMS.

2. ALGERIANS OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATED FIRST HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION AND US EFFORT TO RE-ESTABLISH DIRECT DIALOGUE. PRELIMINARY PLANNING EASIER AND PRESS COVERAGE SLIGHTLY MORE EXTENSIVE THAN USUAL; ALGERIANS MADE APPROPRIATE HOSPITALITY GESTURES. DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESIDENCY OFFICIALS WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE LARGELY DEVOID OF POLEMICS, REFLECTING ALGERIAN DESIRE TO ENGAGE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. POST-VISIT FEEDBACK WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM ALGERIAN SIDE INDICATES THAT THEY APPRECIATED VISIT AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF NEWS.

3. HABIB HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE FRANK EXPRESSION OF ALGERIAN VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST AND TO SENSITIZE ALGERIANS TO DANGERS ARISING FROM SOVIET-CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. ALGERIAN REPETITION OF STANDARD MIDDLE EAST LINE --  
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THAT ALGERIANS READY TO ACCEPT WHATEVER PLO, SYRIA AND EGYPT ACCEPT -- UNCHANGED, INDICATING THAT THEY PREPARED CONTINUE REMAIN ON MIDDLE EAST SIDELINES. BOUMEDIENE'S COMMENTS ON AFRICAN ISSUES LEFT IMPRESSION THAT ALGERIANS ARE AWARE OF DANGERS AND COMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM INCREASING SOVIET/ CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, ARE MULLING OVER WHAT THIS ACTIVISM IMPLIES FOR ALGERIA, BUT HAVE NOT REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS. WE SUSPECT

ALGERIANS WILL AGAIN SEEK HIGH AND SAFE GROUND OF NON-INVOLVEMENT AND VERBAL SUPPORT FOR GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS.

4. VISIT ALSO SAW ALGERIANS CONTINUE RECENT PATTERN OF UNCHARACTERISTIC COORDINATION FAILURES. BOUTEFILKA, WHO HAD NOT LEFT FOR NACC, AT ONE POINT PLANNED TO MEET WITH HABIB BUT CHANGED HIS MIND; HE THEN DECIDED TO ATTEND BOUMEDIENE SESSION ONLY TO FAIL TO SHOW UP. ABDESSELAM FAILED TO RETURN ALGIERS IN TIME TO MEET WITH HABIB DESPITE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY PROMISES TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT HE WOULD DO SO. FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSUADED PRESIDENCY TO CALL AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO US MINISTER OF TOURISM MAOUI BACK FROM PARIS TO HOST DINNER FOR HABIB ONLY TO REVERSE ITSELF ONCE MAOUI HAD RETURNED.

5. ABOVE INCIDENTS REFLECT CURRENT UNCERTAINTY AND MALAISE IN ALGERIAN ATMOSPHERE AS OFT-PROMISED MINISTERIAL SHUFFLE CONTINUES TO BE POSTPONED. IN LIGHT THIS ATMOSPHERE, WHICH PERMEATING ENTIRE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY, IT TRIBUTE TO ALGERIAN DESIRE TO TALK TO HABIB AND TO RE-ESTABLISH HIGH-LEVEL AMERICAN CONNECTION THAT ALGERIANS PERFORMED AS WELL AS THEY DID, AND THAT HABIB RECEIVED ACCESS HE DID. NOW THAT HABIB HAS SUCCESSFULLY RE-ESTABLISHED HIGH-LEVEL CONNECTION, WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS BOTH ON WHAT ADDITIONAL MESSAGES WE WANT TO PASS THROUGH IT AND ON HOW WE CAN BEST MAINTAIN IT. LYNE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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